

2. Can you assess contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as well as initiatives in this regard with a view to eliminating them in your country?

Criminal Justice Research

The Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989 is robust; however, there is currently no criminal law provision which defines racist offences. Research into this aspect has been undertaken by the Centre for Criminal Justice, University of Limerick. The findings of the research were published on the 18th December, 2008. This research was commissioned under the National Action Plan Against Racism (NPAR).

The report, entitled “Combating Racism and Xenophobia through the Criminal Law” also calls on Judges to impose tougher sentences on those who commit crimes where racism is an aggravating factor.

Other recommendations in the report include:

Updating the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989 to include racism on the internet

Promoting the use of the Public Order and Offences against the Person Acts as a means of prosecuting racist incidents

A series of flanking measures including the publication of an annual Garda Report on the level of racist crime in Ireland

Racist Incidents

Please see below the official statistics recorded by Central Statistics Office (CSO) for

Other Information and Data.

In the period 2001-2008, a non – governmental organisation called the *National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI)* recorded incidents related to racism in Ireland. The National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism periodically reported these incidents to the EU Fundamental Rights Agency.

The following table displays the figures collated by the NCCRI in the period 2005 to 2008.

Reports since 2005	Period covered	Number of incidents
1.	January – December 2005	119
2.	January – December 2006	65
3.	January – December 2007	99
4.	January – December 2008	106
** Please see point 16 re. NCCRI below.		

The Irish Police force (An Garda Síochána)

The Irish Police Commissioner established a Police Racial and Intercultural Office (GRIO) in April 2000. Staff members of this office coordinate, monitor and advise on all aspects of policing in the area of ethnic and cultural diversity. The Office has a staff of 3 (2 Police Officers and 1 Civilian Administrator). Staff members are available to members of the public and the Police for advice and support.

3. Please identify concrete measures and initiatives for combating and eliminating all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to foster effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

The Irish Government's overall policy is set out in a number of key policy statements, including 'Planning for Diversity' – The National Action Plan Against Racism 2005 -2008 (NPAR). The overall objective of the National Action Plan was 'to promote a more inclusive intercultural society in Ireland and to combat racism'.

The plan encompassed five key themes: Protection, Inclusion, Provision, Recognition and Participation:

1. Effective *Protection* and redress against racism, including a focus on discrimination, threatening behaviour and incitement to hatred
2. Economic *Inclusion* and equality of opportunity, including a focus on employment, the workplace and poverty
3. Accommodating diversity in service *Provision*, including a focus on outcomes in education, health, social services and childcare, accommodation and the administration of justice
4. *Recognition* and awareness of diversity, including a focus on awareness raising, the media and the arts, sport and tourism
5. Full *Participation* in Irish society, including a focus on the political level, the policy level and the community level.

A strategic monitoring group, involving representatives of key stakeholders from

challenge of Integration. The Plan promoted positive diversity management programmes.

Since its inception, the National Action Plan Against Racism aimed to present practical solutions in anticipation of major racism, diversity, management and integration problems. A number of strategic programmes have been established by national institutions such as the Police Force (An Garda Síochána), the Health Service Executive, local government and national research. Accommodation of different cultures is done through the medium of Sport and through the Arts and in the development of a intercultural education strategy.

The Irish Government is fully committed to working closely with the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD) Committee and secretariat on the implementation of the UNCERD Convention and all related issues.

5. What are the steps taken by your Government to ratify and/or implement the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and give proper consideration of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination ?

Ireland signed the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1968. Following the enactment of the Employment Equality Act 1998 and the Equal Status Act 2000, the Convention was ratified by Ireland in December 2000 and entered into force in January 2001. In ratifying the UN convention, Ireland was one of a small number of countries that opted for Article 14. Article 14 allows a right of individual petition to the United Nations, all local remedies having being exhausted.

The First National Report by Ireland under the UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was published and submitted to the UN in March 2004 and Ireland engaged in a very successful dialogue on this report with the UNCERD Committee in Geneva in March, 2005. Ireland actively engaged with the UNCERD follow-up Co-ordinator on the implementation of the UNCERD Committee's recommendations in the

an independent rapporteur. Non- governmental organisations will also have an opportunity to submit their “Shadow reports” to the UNCERD Committee.

6. Please identify and share good practices achieved in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in your country.

The National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) published a major research project on good practice in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The research was funded by the Office for First and Deputy Minister in Northern Ireland, the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform in Ireland, The British Council and the Rowntree Trust. The research is called ‘Improving Government Provision to Minority Ethnic Groups in Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland’. This publication is available on the NCCRI website www.nccri.ie .

The Police Force (An Garda Síochána), in cooperation with the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, produced a ‘*Short Guide to the European Convention on Human Rights Act 2003*’. A copy of this publication has been issued to every member of the police force and the police reserve. This guide outlines the State’s obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights and directly relates those principles to the operational activities of the Irish Police.

The Office of the Minister for Integration funds the Holocaust Education Trust in Ireland, the organisers of the Holocaust Memorial Day held each year on the Sunday closest to 27 January. The Commemoration serves as a constant reminder of the dangers of racism and to provide lessons from the past that are relevant today. In 2008, the Office of the Minister for Integration also provided a grant to the Holocaust Education Trust in Ireland (HETI) towards the further development of education materials and awareness raising activities.

Some of the achievements under the National Action Plan Against Racism include the development of Diversity Strategies in the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and other organisations. Public awareness campaigns and initiatives were also undertaken to highlight the

Annex

Measures of prevention, education and protection aimed at the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance at the national level.

1. What measures have been taken to prohibit racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone without distinction, to equal enjoyment of human rights, notably of the rights listed below;

(a) Equal Treatment before tribunals and all other organs administering justice;

The right to equal treatment before tribunals and all other organs administering justice is provided for by the Constitution of Ireland. Articles 34 and 35 guarantee the right to have justice administered in public by judges who are independent and Article 38.1 guarantees the right to criminal trial in course of law.

The Constitution emphasises that justice is accessible to all. A right of access to the Courts has also been held to be an unenumerated personal constitutional right under Article 40.3.

(b) Equal rights to security of person and protection by the State against violence or bodily harm, whether inflicted by Government officials or by any individual group or institution.

The Government condemns racist violence and, as with other forms of violence, is committed to cracking down on this formC BT/TT0 1 Tf07.86 -1.1m[U7 12ent cemc7on 1 Tf0.0004 Tc -

exploratory piece of research on the possible implications of greater ethnic and cultural diversity for housing.

The Housing Policy Statement *Delivering Homes: Sustaining Communities* (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2007) acknowledged the need for attention to the housing implications of increasing ethnic and cultural in Ireland but specific details on how housing policy and practice should adapt are limited. It is hoped that this study will help in the further development of an intercultural dimension to housing policy and practice and in making connections between housing policy and other social

institutions working on the issues of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance? Has your Government provided them with the competence and capacity for investigation, research,

The Equality Authority, which has the role of working towards the elimination of discrimination, provides information and advice to any person who feels that he or she has been discriminated against on any of the grounds covered in the Equality Legislation, whether in an employment or non employment area.

The Equality Tribunal (formerly known as the Office of the Director of Equality Investigations) is an impartial body set up by law to decide or mediate complaints under equality legislation.

The Equality Tribunal's principal role is the investigation and mediation of complaints of discrimination in relation to employment and in relation to access to goods and services, disposal of property and certain aspects of education. This protection against discrimination applies to all nine grounds on which discrimination is prohibited under equality legislation. Where a complaint of discrimination is upheld, redress must be awarded.

The Tribunal may also investigate complaints of discrimination on the grounds of gender under the Pensions Act 1990, where an employer has failed to comply with the principle of equal treatment in relation to occupational benefit or pensions schemes.

The Tribunal has jurisdiction in all areas covered by the equality legislation with the exception of service in licensed premises (claims here are dealt with by the District Court).

7. Has your Government adopted or strengthened national programmes for eradicating poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities taking into account the needs of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance?

National Action Plan for Social Inclusion

A key target in the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016 (NAPinclusion) is to reduce the numbers of those who are 'consistently poor' to between 2% and 4% by 2012 and to aim to eliminate it by 2016. Specific attention is being paid to particularly vulnerable groups (including Travellers, migrants and members of ethnic minority groups) in the pursuit of this objective.

Traveller Community

The overall objective in the NAPinclusion in relation to Travellers is to improve the life experience of Travellers through the provision of appropriate education, health and housing services and to remove any remaining barriers to the full participation of members of the Traveller community in the work and social life of the country. The NAPinclusion contain a range of targets/actions in relation to Travellers.

Ethnic Minorities

A key goal in the NAPinclusion is to develop a strategy aimed at achieving the integration of migrants and minority ethnic groups in our society. The objective is to ensure that their basic needs are met through enhanced and better co-ordinated State support services and, in that regard, the NAPinclusion contains a range of relevant targets/actions.

Progress in relation to these targets/actions, which are part of the responsibilities of a number of Departments/Agencies, has been reported on in the Social Inclusion Annual Report 2006/2007² and will continue to be monitored and reported.

Data Strategy

A lack of adequate sectoral data in some areas does not permit the level of poverty being experienced by certain vulnerable groups to be measured and presents problems in assessing the impact of policies. This is an issue that the Office for Social Inclusion (OSI) is addressing as part of its ongoing work on data with the support of a Technical Advisory Group made up of specialists in data collection and research. As a contribution to this process, the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) is producing a series of Social Portraits, commissioned by the OSI. The fourth in the

9. What measures have been taken to combat racial discrimination against women and girls and to ensure the incorporation of race and gender analysis in the implementation of all aspects of the Programme of Action and your national plan of action?

The National Action Plan Against Racism

The National Action Plan Against Racism seeks to be inclusive of all aspects of equality, including the nine grounds identified in Irish equality legislation: gender, age, marital status, family status, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation and membership of the Traveller community. Gender issues are considered in all aspects of the implementation, in particular in the delivery of public services.

In addition, the Government has recently published a comprehensive National Action Plan on Women which acknowledges ethnic and cultural diversity in Ireland.

National Women's Strategy 2007 – 2016 – Traveller Women and Ethnic Minorities

The National Women's Strategy recognises that there are a number of groups of women who may have special requirements or who may experience multiple

of particular groups of women including Traveller women and those from ethnic minorities. These issues will also be looked at in more detail by those sections of Government Departments with a particular competence in relation to Travellers and ethnic minorities.

Implementation of the National Women's Strategy is being overseen by an Inter-Departmental Committee and the process is also being assisted by a cross-sectoral consultative committee which includes representatives of the Social Partners. A review of the National Women's Strategy is planned for 2010.

Date collection and desegregation, research and study

10. Does your Government collect and analyse statistical data at the national level on the situation of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance broken down by economic and social indicators, in order to monitor the situation of marginalized groups, evaluate legislation and elaborate development policies?

Please see response to core question 2.

Education and awareness training

11. Please indicate ways your Government has taken to increase the level of awareness about the scourges of racism and promote the values of acceptance, tolerance and cultural diversity. In this connection, how effective are the measures, in the fields of teaching, anti-racism education, including programmes addressed to young people, culture and information, media campaigns and sports which have been undertaken to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all manifestations of related intolerance?

Media Campaign

A major national awareness media campaign took place in March and April 2006, emphasising the benefits of diversity. The underlying theme of the campaign was to reflect the new multicultural Ireland in which we now live and to place inclusion and diversity in its proper modern context as an everyday reality. The campaign consisted of a series of five 40-second radio commercials and ran for a six week period across all national and local radio stations.

Public Awareness Campaign

In February 2007, the National Action Plan Against Racism launched a major public awareness campaign to highlight the important contribution made by members of minority ethnic groups to Irish society. This campaign used real-life case studies to communicate a trend in Irish Society, showing new Irish citizens working in key areas of Irish life. Recent figures have shown that many people from different ethnic groups are an integrated part of Irish society and its success. The 2006 Census returns

recorded some 400,000 persons born outside of Ireland, comprising 10% of the population.

Almost 20,000 people from around the world work in the Irish Health Services, caring for thousands of patients every day.

There are almost 6,000 people from all over the world assisting in the education of a new generation of students in Ireland.

Nearly 30,000 people from different parts of the world are working in the hospitality industry – these people are providing the traditional Irish welcome in our restaurants and hotels around the country.

Metro Éireann and Media and Multicultural Awards (MAMA)

MAMA recognise the people, groups, events, companies and institutions that embrace and celebrate cultural diversity in Ireland.

The awards are open to individuals, public and private sector organisations, and not – for profit organisations on the island of Ireland.

Measures undertaken by the Department of Defence

The Defence Forces UN School (UNTSI) conducts International Human Rights and CIMIC (Civil and Military Cooperation) courses for both the Defence Forces and other government agencies. This leads personnel to have greater understanding of human rights issues, which ensures a greater knowledge and tolerance of racial and ethnic groups.

The Defence Forces has participated in a number of Anti-Racist and Diversity awareness initiatives in conjunction with the Equality Authority. The focus of these initiatives is to raise an educational awareness through the media and public opinion. Such awareness programmes, in conjunction with briefings at Unit level and before personnel depart on overseas service, engender mutual respect, contribute to greater understanding of racism and therefore ensure that military personnel are well placed to recognise such activities and address them correctly.

Corporate Sector and An Action Strategy to Support Integrated Workplaces

The National Action Plan Against Racism, the Equality Authority and the Irish Management Institute established a research BIZLAB model to promote the business case for diversity in the workplace through research to explore and identify the primary issues in management of cultural diversity.

An output of this Bizlab model was the development of a diversity toolkit which will provide an important practical support to organisations to adapt their workplace policies, procedures and practices to address the challenges posed by a culturally diverse workforce and to actualise the potential for business success that is inherent in this diversity.

An Action Strategy to support Integrated Workplaces is a social partnership initiative organised by representatives of the Office of the Minister for Integration, ICTU,

Some of the main findings of the Flash Eurobarometer survey published in December 2007 in relation to Ireland included the following;

Anti – Racism Awareness Training – Department of Social and Family Affairs

A clear example of the Irish Government's approach in this area is training in the Department of Social and Family Affairs which has a significant contact with the public. The Department has developed a comprehensive range of training and awareness raising programmes to support staff who deal with the public, including:

- Anti-discrimination awareness training has been part of the Department's integrated customer service training since 1998.
- Internal Guidelines for staff when dealing with non-Irish customers were published in early 2002.
- A detailed anti-discrimination training and awareness training course was developed with the assistance of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI).

Diversity Awareness

- The Department of Social and Family Affairs developed a one-day modular diversity awareness training course targeted particularly, but not exclusively, at front line staff. Since 2002, five hundred staff have received this training. The main modules covered are race awareness, Traveller awareness and disability awareness.
- In 2005, the Department commissioned a diversity awareness trainer who has to date provided training to six hundred staff.
- In addition, in 2007 specialised diversity awareness training was provided for Medical Assessors in the Department who carry out medical assessments in relation to disability payments
- A total of 71 Services Officers/Attendants have received a session on ethnic/diversity awareness as part of their training programme.
- In 2008, 27 staff received training on Diversity Awareness from the Civil Service Training and Development Centre. The course was called 'Living and Working in a Diverse Ireland'.
- the Department's Staff Development Unit is currently designing its own Diversity Awareness course for delivery in 2009.

Effective communication with speakers of other languages

- The Department has also developed a course entitled “Dealing with non-native speakers of English” for front–line staff. In 2007, the name was changed to “Effective communication with speakers of other languages”. 119 Social Welfare Local Office (SWLO) staff received this training in 2008.
- Technology to provide a successful translation service has been installed in 81 Local Offices in the Department which are open to the public. Following a review to ascertain demand for this service and due to positive feedback, it has been decided to extend availability to all Local/Branch Offices in 2009.

Measures undertaken by the National Training and Employment Authority – (FÁS)

(5). The Police Force (An Garda Síochána) has republished information booklets on cultural diversity for its members and a further booklet for members of Ethnic Communities. The second booklet was distributed through Ethnic Liaison Officers and through the Divisional Forums.

(6). It is Police (Garda) Policy to hold two information seminars annually. The target audience for the seminars are the leaders of ethnic communities and Garda Ethnic Liaison Officers. Invited speakers provide personal and organisational experience, open discussion and share new ideas and practices from the UK and elsewhere.

(7). The Garda Síochána Corporate Strategy 2007- 2009 includes the goal of monitoring racially motivated incidents occurring in each district and division.

Information, communication and the media, including new technologies

13. While taking all necessary measures to guarantee the right to freedom of opinion and expression, what steps have been taken to declare an offence punishable by law all acts of racial violence or incitement to such acts as well as the dissemination of ideas based upon racial superiority or hatred and, particularly through new information and communications technologies, including the Internet ?

The use of words, behaviour or the publication or distribution of material which is threatening, abusive or insulting and are intended, or are likely, to stir up hatred against any group of persons in the State or elsewhere on account of their race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origins, sexual orientation or membership of the Traveller community are prohibited under the prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989. The Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act is kept under continuing review in the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform to ensure its continuing effectiveness.

The Criminal Justice (Public Order Act) 1994 may be used in some cases to combat racist acts on public order grounds.

The continuing review is taking into account the Protocol to the Cybercrime Convention on combating racism and xenophobia through computer systems and the EU Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of the criminal law. It will also take into account major research undertaken on the effectiveness of present legislation in Ireland to deal with crime motivated by racism.

Any activity that incites racial hatred is a criminal offence. It would be a matter for the court in any particular set of circumstances to decide whether the dissemination of ideas based upon racial superiority or hatred was an offence. Under the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989, it is an offence to publish or distribute written material or to use words, behave or display written material if such is threatening, abusive or insulting and is intended or likely to stir up hatred. Publish could include publishing on the Internet.

18. What judicial and other remedies exist for persons against any acts of racial discrimination which violate their human rights and what evidence is there to consider that these remedies ar

Article 40 of the Irish Constitution provides an overall guarantee of equality before the law. All Irish Government measures are equally applied to members of minority groups.

The Health Service Executive strives to ensure that all services users access health services on the basis of need. The Intercultural Health Strategy recognises that certain targeted services should be supported to promote such equal access and in this regard, measures such as provision of interpretation and translation services continue to be enhanced. At the same time, efforts are underway to apply use of Ethnic Identifier to enable evidence based planning around the health care and support needs of specific groups.

Indigenous peoples

22. What constitutional, administrative, legislative and other measures has your Government taken, to guarantee and full exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples and/ or amended national Constitutional, laws, legal systems and policies to be in conformity with relevant international human rights instruments, norms and standards?

23. Has your Government taken any measure to ensure consultation with indigenous representatives in the process of decision-making concerning policies and measures that directly affect them?

Questions 22 & 23 are not applicable to Ireland.

Migrants

24. Has your Government reviewed and, where necessary, revised its immigration laws, policies and practices which may be inconsistent with international human rights instruments with a view to eliminating all discriminatory policies and practices against migrants?

Refugee, asylum and displaced persons

Other Victims

26. What steps have been taken to guarantee the rights of persons belonging to minorities including Roma/ Gypsy/ Sinti, to enjoy their own culture, to profess or practice their own religion, to use their own language and to participate effectively in the culture, social, economic, and political life in order to protect them from any form of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance they are or may be subjected to?

Travellers in Ireland have the same civil and political rights as other citizens under the Constitution and there is no restriction on any such group to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion or to use their own language. All the protection afforded to ethnic minorities in EU directives and international conventions apply to Travellers because the Irish legislation giving effect to those international instruments, such as the Equality Acts, the Unfair Dismissals Acts and the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act, explicitly protect Travellers.

In a range of legislative, administrative and institutional provisions, the Government has recognised the special position of Ireland's Traveller community, in order to protect their rights and improve their situation.

The Government is committed to challenging discrimination against Travellers and has defined membership of the Traveller community as a separate ground on which it is unlawful to discriminate under equality legislation. This does not provide a lesser level of protection to Travellers compared to that afforded to members of ethnic minorities. On the contrary, the separate identification of Travellers in equality legislation guarantees that they are explicitly protected.

27. Have measures been taken to counter Anti-Semitism, anti-Arabism and Islamophobia and the emergence of movements based on racism and discriminatory ideas concerning these communities?

The process of structured dialogue between the Government and the churches, faith communities and non-confessional organisation is organised to include bilateral discussions with the Government and occasional gatherings of all participants in the process. This process of structured dialogue involves both the Prime Minister (Taoiseach) in addition to other senior Ministers.

The Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) commemoration demonstrates the Irish Government's commitment to the Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust. Holocaust Memorial Day has been marked in Ireland since 2003, on the evening of the Sunday nearest the 27th January.

died in the Holocaust and encouraging children to learn more of the ethnic background of fellow pupils and gain an understanding and respect for difference; a Holocaust Timeline, which is a tool for teachers giving a complete overview of the Holocaust; and the production of a booklet on the Holocaust for inclusion in Civic, Social and Personal Education.

International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF)

Ireland became an Observer Country of the Task Force on International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF) in December 2007.

The ITF, which was established at the initiative of the Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson, in 1998, consists of representatives of governments and non-governmental organisations. Its purpose is to place political and social leaders' support behind the need for Holocaust education, remembrance and research, both nationally and internationally.

Membership of the ITF involves a 3-stage process and preparations are underway for Ireland to progress to the next level, Liaison Country status, with a view to eventually becoming a full Member Country of the ITF as soon as the required arrangements can be put in place.

28. Has your Government devised, enforced and strengthened measures to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls?

Enacted legislation

The Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998

This Act creates an offence for any person who organises or knowingly facilitates the entry into, transit through or exit from the State of a child (under 17 years) for the purpose of his or her sexual exploitation, or provides accommodation for a child for such a purpose while in the State. A convicted person will be

other persons for the purposes of labour or sexual exploitation or for the removal of a person's organs.

It is an offence under the Act for a person to solicit a trafficked person for the purposes of prostitution where the person soliciting knows, or has reasonable grounds for believing, that the person has been trafficked. The soliciting can take place anywhere – in public or in private. Any person who accept or agrees to accept any kind of payment in exchange for the prostitution of the trafficked person will also commit an offence. Fines of up to €5000 and 12 months imprisonment apply if a person is convicted on indictment and an unlimited fine and up to 5 years imprisonment if convicted on indictment. The Act also provides that if an Irish citizen or a person ordinarily resident in Ireland is alleged to have committed a trafficking offence abroad Ireland will accept the jurisdiction to try the offence here. Again penalties of up to life imprisonment apply.

Other Measures

As well as the legislation on the criminalisation and reflection periods, there are other measures to combat human trafficking being implemented on an administrative basis. An Interdepartmental High level Group comprising of representatives from key Government Departments has been established to recommend the most appropriate and effective responses to trafficking in human beings to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

An Anti Human Trafficking Unit was established in February 2008 within the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform to ensure the State's response to human trafficking is coordinated, comprehensive and holistic. A key element of this strategy will be the development of a National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Trafficking in Human Beings to be approved by the High Level Group for submission to the Minister. The National Action Plan will have a strong focus on preventing trafficking becoming a major issue in Ireland. The National Action Plan is being developed under four main headings: Child Trafficking, Prevention and Awareness Raising, Prosecution of Traffickers and Protection of Victims. The National Action Plan will set out the structures which will facilitate ratification of the *Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings* and the *UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*.

Representatives from the High Level Group and Anti Human Trafficking Unit engage with NGOS and International organisations in the manner of roundtable discussions which are held about every four months. In addition, 5 interdisciplinary Working groups have been established comprising representatives from the relevant Government Agencies, NGOs and International Organisations to progress matters in relation to the development of a National Referral Mechanism to assist victims, Awareness Raising & Training, Child Trafficking, Labour Exploitation issues, and Sexual Exploitation issues. In total, 34 different Governmental, international, non-governmental organisations are involved in the Roundtable forum and working groups which in turn report to the High Level Group.

European G6 Initiative against Human Trafficking

The G6 initiative is a coordinated international campaign to tackle the trafficking of oups

blue blindfold represents the risk of people having their eyes closed and being unaware of the crime that may be going on around them.

The campaign had the following components:

Newspaper Advertisements at the start and end of the campaign in eight newspapers

Newspaper Advertisements in Foinse on 17th October, 2008 and in Metro Éireann on 19th October, 2008.

A total of 1,250 packs containing 3 posters, 1,000 leaflets and 200 business cards were produced and issued to the following organisations:

50 Packs - Airports/Ports/Train Stations/Bus Stations

725 Packs - Garda Síochána³

22 Packs - NGOs

125 Packs - Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) Accommodation Centres

32 Packs - Local Health Offices

87 Packs - Health Centres

14 Packs - Hospitals

73 Packs - Citizen Information Centres

90 Packs - Libraries

12 Packs - Other Organisations (including educational organisations)

Stripline and Column ads on the two Luas (public transport in Dublin) lines for 3 weeks.

A skyscraper advertisement on the RTE (national television and radio service) website for 3 weeks.

Advertisements placed in the Match Programmes for three rugby internationals.

Advertisement placed in the In Touch magazine - which circulated with the Irish Independent - on 3rd November, 2008.

Dedicated website www.blueblindfold.gov established which, inter alia, sets out the indicators of trafficking.

Awareness Raising Training

The International Organisation for Migration, UK Human Trafficking Centre and NGOs such as Ruhama and Migrants Rights Centre Ireland are assisting in delivering training in recognition and investigation of trafficking in persons to front line Gardaí and PSNI officers in joint training courses in the Police (Garda) Training College. Training includes victim identification through recognising indicators of trafficking in human beings. 250 members of the Police Service (An Garda Síochána) have been provided with this training course and 520 Probationer Police Officers (Gardaí) have received awareness training as part of their final phase of training. Police Officers (An Garda Síochána) also regularly participate in courses organised by CEPOL, the European Police College, related to human trafficking. These courses are targeted at senior police officers who are responsible for prosecution services countering trafficking cases or organised crime cases, members of lecturing staff in national police training colleges, Chiefs of Police and Government officials from relevant Ministries dealing with issues around human trafficking.

³ One to each District Headquarters which was then delivered to businesses in the county.

Personnel attached to the Police (Garda) Training College and Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) attended a course provided by the International Organisation for Migration titled “The Training of Border Guards, Border Police and Customs Officials in identifying of and providing assistance to the victims of trafficking”. This course was sponsored by the Belgian and Hungarian Governments in co-operation with the European Commission.

Awareness Raising Training has also been provided between July 2008 and February 2009, to in excess of 130 persons as an introduction to human trafficking and setting out the indicators of human trafficking. The training has been provided by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) with input from NGOs/HSE, the Garda National Immigration Bureau and the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit. Among those provided with the training are members of staff from the following organisations:

- Labour Inspectors from the National Employment Rights Authority,
- Health Services Executive,
- Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS),
- Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC),
- the Victim’s Support Helpline,
- the Victim of Crime Office,
- the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment,
- Youth Detention Schools,
- the Probation Service,
- the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit,
- Inspectors from the Private Security Authority,
- Social Welfare Inspectors from the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

Office of the Minister for Integration
April 2009